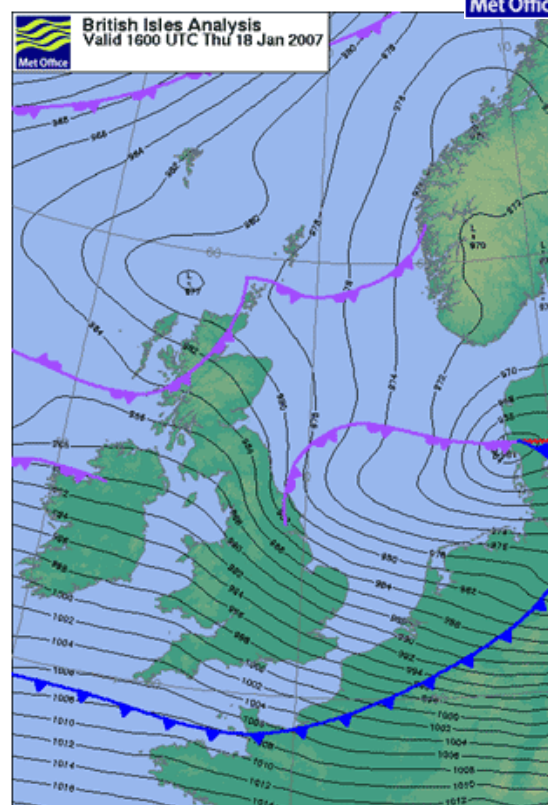


News release

18 January 2007

Met Office statement on severe weather

- The storm that has affected much of the UK today is over northern Germany as of 5 p.m. UK time.
- Winds across the UK are easing quickly, but it will remain quite windy across many areas throughout the night.
- The strongest winds today affected all of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with widespread gusts of 70-80 m.p.h. being reported.
- Denmark, Netherlands and Germany were expected to be more severely affected by the storm as it tracked across them through this evening.
- Although data is still being collated, the last time such high wind speeds were experienced across such a large area of the UK was the Burns' Day storm 25 January 1990.
- Heathrow airport has today experienced gusts of 77 m.p.h., the highest ever recorded at this location was 87 m.p.h. 25 January 1990.
- The highest gust recorded at Heathrow today was 2 m.p.h. higher than that recorded in the Great Storm of 1987.
- The Needles on the Isle of Wight recorded the highest wind speed at 99 m.p.h., this has yet to be verified.
- The wind speeds that have affected large parts of the country today, would be described as *severe gale force* on the Beaufort scale.
- The Met Office issued an official early warning of this event on Monday 15 January and had been working with authorities to help the country prepare for the event. Efforts are still continuing and we are working with the national weather services of our European neighbours. They have also been warning their citizens of the approaching severe weather.
- The position of the storm at 4 p.m. today is shown on the chart opposite.



Surface pressure chart at 1600 GMT on
18 January

[Latest forecast for the UK](#)

[UK warnings of severe weather](#)

[What to do in severe weather](#)

For further information:

Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

E-mail: pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100

If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680